The Nissan Trials

BY RIC WILLIAMS
PHOTOGRAPHY
RIC WILLIAMS & MARINA

A strong field of competitors ignited plenty of 4WD action to the delight of some 3000 spectators during the Nissan 4WD Trials 2000 at Colo Park recently.

According to Maureen Dignam, assistant editor of Nissan News a record number of 760 4WD vehicles passed through the gates, which is in any one's language, a substantial gathering and shows just how popular the Nissan Trials have become over the past ten years.

Robert Burns and Ian Oostelbos did a great job supervising and preparing the 8 competitive trial sections with the assistance of several club volunteers and split the load of responsibilities over a number of patrons, who took charge of their own individual events.

The club's change in organisation came about through the absence of Chris Chapman, who in the past had borne the brunt of all responsibilities leading up to the preparation and supervision of the trial sections. The new format was created to spread the work load more evenly.

Chapman's unexpected departure meant that more hands were needed to run these tasks, but Robert and Ian showed excellent organising skills and pulled on all available resources to stage yet another successful and memorable event.

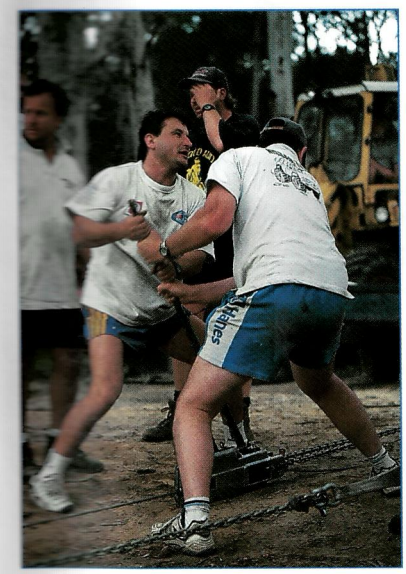
The 11th Nissan Trials attracted 15 teams with 75 competitors from all over the country.

Competition raged to the cheers of thousands of spectators throughout the two day week end as club teams challenged the obstacles of 8 well thought out trial sections under perfect weather conditions, while at the end of the day the campsite created a great atmosphere and meeting place for 4WD enthusiasts from all walks of life. To some of them this annual reunion continued well into the early hours of the morning cutting right into sleeping habits of volunteer officials in charge of scoring and track clearing tasks. These guys, as well as the LandCruiser club's vehicle recovery team deserve a special pat-on-the-back for their dedicated effort in tolerating short sleeps and long working h made the 11th Nissan Trials ru more efficient.

Out of the 15 clubs, the Terrace 4WD club performed ally well to score 2523 points 5th overall place. Considering last minute rookie appearance short of talent and will be t watch out for in 2001.

Open Class

At the end of the day though, Darren Hardy from the Rush 4WD club took overall victory over Andrew Antunac (Raymond Terrace 4WD club) and third placed Duncan Scott (All Terrain 4WD club). Interestingly, the top three open class competitors were all driving highly modified LandCruiser 40 series specials.

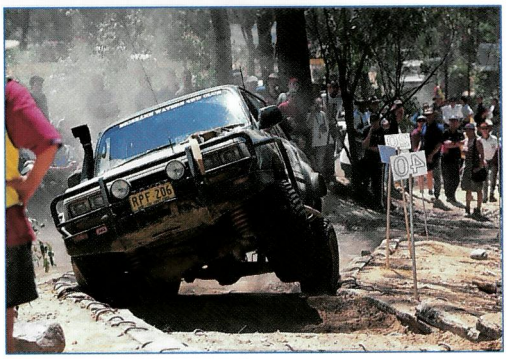


Production Modified Class

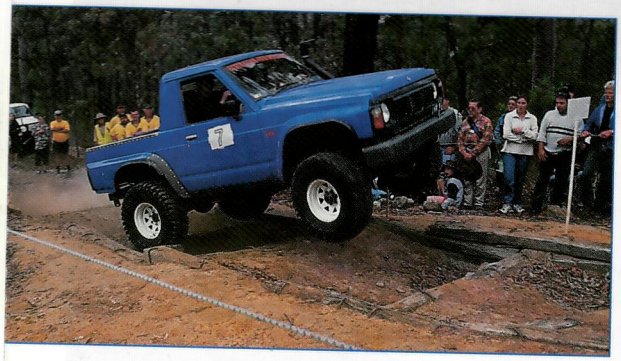
David Olive and Mark Sim from the Golden Eagle 4WD club scored a nice win over Ric Williams Jnr and Gordon Trigg (Raymond Terrace 4WD club), with Mathew Dunk and Jim Coundrelis (All Terrain 4WD club) in third place.

Production Class

Steve Hudson from the Dandenong Ranges 4WD club outperformed Michael Christy (Nissan Patrol club) and Steve Curtis (Toyota LandCruiser club) ➤



The Nissan Trials



Nissan Trials Top Ten teams

1. Darren Hardy & Mark Offord - Toyota LandCruiser 40 series 720.
2. Peter Antunac & Matt Pisani - Toyota LandCruiser 40 series 713.
3. David Olive & Mark Sim - Nissan GQ Patrol 704.
4. Duncan Scott & Malcolm Rea - Toyota LandCruiser 40 series 703.
5. Andre Zdrowski & Glen Marshman - Toyota LandCruiser 80 series 631.
6. Paul Pisani & Darren Watt - Suzuki Sierra 624.
7. Ric Williams Jnr & Gordon Trigg - Nissan GU Patrol 623.
8. Neil Semmins & James McEvoy - Nissan GQ Patrol 622.
9. Rob Turner & Alan Paviour-Smith - Toyota HILUX 619.
10. Steven Randell & Jason Gilbert - Toyota LandCruiser 75 series 616.

Bushdriver's Ric Williams Jnr and Gordon Trigg moved up a place closer up the leader board to 7th outright and second in class out of 75 entries and kept the Nissan flag flying in a respectable position.